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**STATE CELEBRATES TUDOR BARN REHABILITATION PARTNERSHIP
AT MIDDLESEX FELS RESERVATION, STONEHAM**

STONEHAM—Today, officials from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) joined with the Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation, local legislators and town officials for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the rehabilitation of the Tudor Barn at the Middlesex Fells Reservation.

“The rehabilitation of this historic building is an example of how the Commonwealth can employ new models of stewardship to repair and maintain vital park resources,” said Environmental Affairs Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard. “This project is also part of the Romney Administration’s ‘Fix it First Friends’ initiative, and is a fine example of the state’s commitment to improving its existing public resources.”

In 2005, DCR partnered with the Friends of the Middlesex Fells to rehabilitate the Tudor Barn, through the EOEA Office of Public Private Partnerships. The stone barn had been damaged by two fires, and more than a decade of progressive deterioration had taken its toll. The Friends’ contribution was matched by funds from the EOEA Office of Public Private Partnerships “Fix It First Friends” Program.

The Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA), the former management agency for the property, contributed \$88,000 in remediation funds for the project and the DCR Urban Trust put in \$67,000 for a total project budget of \$185,000.

Work began in May 2005 and included restoration of the barn’s stonework (approximately 25% was rebuilt) and construction of a new interior loft frame, roof, doors and shutters. Where possible, stones were restored to their original positions in the masonry, based on historic photographs.

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Kerry Healey
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Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary
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Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner
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“The Middlesex Fells Reservation is one of DCR’s oldest facilities, boasting a remarkable depth of natural, historical and recreational resources,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. “We are grateful for the support of EOEA, the Friends of the Middlesex Fells and the MWRA in preserving part of the Reservation’s heritage through this project,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. “Thanks to this partnership, the Fells now has a beautifully restored historic building that will meet critical park needs, and serve as an invaluable educational resource.”

“Restoration of the historic Tudor Barn is the first of what the Friends hopes are many more DCR partnership projects for enhancing the Spot Pond region as the public's gateway to the incomparable Middlesex Fells Reservation,” said Mike Ryan, Executive Director of the Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation.

The Tudor Barn was built *ca.* 1840, and is one of only two surviving buildings from an era when the area had been a residential community, marketed to Boston businessmen as a high-class suburb. The Tudor family owned property on Spot Pond—Henry Tudor, the barn’s owner, was the brother of Frederic Tudor, a successful businessman who harvested ice from Spot Pond.

The Middlesex Fells Reservation encompasses 2,575 acres of a diverse and rocky landscape (“fells” is a Saxon word meaning rocky) and offers hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, picnicking, boating, fishing and more. Home to a wide range of fauna, it was popular hunting ground among Native Americans before the arrival of Europeans, and afterwards was favored for timber, granite quarrying, ice production and pastureland. Its water power was tapped by numerous mills, including one that manufactured some of the first vulcanized rubber products. Public works projects were carried out in the Fells by the Civilian Conservation Corp and the Work Progress Administration.

The Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation is a private organization dedicated to enhancing the natural and historic resources of the Middlesex Fells. They can be contacted at 781-662-2340, friends@fells.org, or <http://www.fells.org>.

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